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J. F. K. Relies on National Security Council

President John F. Kennedy is meeting with the National Security Council today. This is the fourth time in 10 days that this strategy body has met. The administration plainly recognizes the value of this council, so this is an appropriate occasion upon which to refresh our information about it.

The National Security Council is made up of the President, the Vice President, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense and the director of the Office of Defense Mobilization.

The council was established by the National Security Act of 1947 and given the function of advising the President "with respect to the integration of domestic, foreign and military policies relating to the national security so as to enable the military services and other departments and

agencies of the government to operate more effectively in matters involving the national security."

It is significant that the Central Intelligence Agency is placed under the direction of the National Security Council. From time to time the President may appoint other top cabinet and military officials to positions on the council with Senate approval.

It is noted that the council is purely an Executive Department body. Indeed, it is situated in the Executive Office of the President.

This would seem to be a time when a representative from the Legislative Branch should be in that council, perhaps Chairman J. W. Fulbright of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.